(c) The drive against tax evasion is a continuous process. For this purpose, the Income Tax Department employs various methods like scrutinising returns of income, conducting searches and surveys, collecting information through AIRs etc.

World Bank aid to Maharashtra

2186. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is fact that World Bank will lend upto $5 billion to Maharashtra for modernizing and developing infrastructure in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region besides technical expertise;

(b) if so, whether concerned State Government has prepared any firm proposals therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof and areas/district expected to be benefited;

(d) whether in the process the Mumbai roads will be made free from water-logging for days together during rainy seasons and the conditions of roads will improve; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) No such proposal from Government of Maharashtra requesting for financial assistance upto $ 5 billion from World Bank has been received. However, upon a request of Maharashtra Government, which was recommended by Government of India, the World Bank is assisting the State Government in developing a comprehensive strategy and plan for modernizing and developing infrastructure in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Amount released to Madhya Pradesh

†2187. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 505.47 crores were to be released to MP from 2000-01 to 2004-05 for Panchayati Raj Institutions as per recommendation of Eleventh Finance Commission; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the amount released out of the said amount and by when the rest of the amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)Asum of Rs. 454.91 crore was released to Government of Madhya Pradesh upto 31.3.2005, which was the end of the award period of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The releases of the grants-in-aid were made subject to the fulfillment of conditionalities attached to the release of grants and taking into account the pace of utilization of grants up to a prescribed period. The release of the balance amount of the grants-in-aid is under consideration.

Plan for small Urban Co-operative Banks

2188. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has been able to develop a sustainable and realistic plan for the proper encouragement of Urban Co-operative Banks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the RBI does not pay attention or have time to ensure that small Urban Co-operative Banks become strong and also serve the middle classes;

(c) what steps will be taken by Government to divest the RBI of responsibility in supervising and administering and regulating Urban Cooperative Banks; and

(d) the steps proposed to create an environment to have a good network of small Urban Co-operative Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India's Annual Policy Statement, for the year 2004-05, refers to the issuance of fresh licence to UCB Sector. It stipulates that in order to make this Sector strong, healthy and stable, fresh licences will be issued only after comprehensive policy on UCBs, including an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the sector, is put in place. In accordance with the announcement, any fresh